

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 20, 23-24, 26-52, and 55-79 are now pending in this application. Claims 21, 22, 53, and 54 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 20 and 48 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 21 and 53, respectively. No new matter is added by these amendments.

II. Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 24, 26, 29, 30, 48-51, 53-69, and 71-79 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-23 of U.S. Patent No. 6,090,162 (the '162 patent). In order to expedite prosecution, and without acquiescing to the rejection, Applicants file herewith a Terminal Disclaimer over the '162 patent. The Terminal Disclaimer obviates this rejection.

III. Objection Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75

Claims 21, 22, 53, and 54 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75 as being "a substantial duplicate of claims 20 and 48," respectively. The Examiner alleges that claims 21 and 22 do not further limit the scope of the composition claimed in claim 20, and that claims 53 and 54 do not further limit the composition of claim 48. Although Applicants disagree, in order to advance prosecution, they have canceled claims 21, 22, 53, and 54. The subject matter of claims 21 and 53 has been incorporated into claims 20 and 48, respectively, but Applicants maintain that the amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims in any appreciable manner. In view of the above, the objection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thanks the Examiner for her indication that claims 20, 23 and 32-47 are allowed, and that claims 27, 28, 31, 52, and 70 contain allowable subject matter. The above amendments and the enclosed Terminal Disclaimer should now put all the pending claims in immediately condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

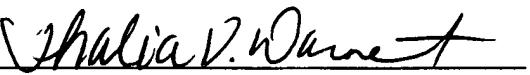
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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